A Simple Guide To The Description of Hajj and Umrah

The Prophet (Sallallahu alayhi was sallam) Said,

"(The performance of) `Umrah is an expiation for the sins committed (between it and the previous one). And the reward of Hajj Mabrur (the one accepted by Allah) is nothing except Paradise."

(Sahih Bukhari)

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Chapter of Hajj

The Conditions (Shurout) of Hajj

1) Muslim
2) Being sane
3) Reached the age of puberty
4) Freedom (There is no obligation upon the slave to perform Hajj)
5) One must be financially and physically able to fulfil Hajj

The Pillars of Hajj

1) Standing at Arafah[1]
2) Performing the Tawaf after returning from Mina (Tawaf al-Ifaadah)[2]
3) Performing the circuits (As-Sa'ee) between as-Safa and al-Marwah[3]

[1] Recorded in Tirmizi, ibn Majah and albani graded it Sahih
[2] Surah Hajj: 29/ Recorded in Bukhari and Muslim
[3] Recorded in Ahmad and Hakim, sheikh albani graded it Sahih

The Obligatory Acts of Hajj

1) Spending the night at Muzdalifah until dawn and praying the dawn prayer there

2) Entering in the state of Ihram at the Meeqaat[4], removing one's clothing and putting on the clothing of Ihram and then making the intention by saying **"At your service, O Allah for an Umrah"** or **"At your service, O Allah for Hajj and Umrah"**.

3) Spending the night at Mina during the days of Tashreeq
4) Throwing the pebbles in the proper order:
   I. Day of Sacrifice: One throws 7 pebbles at Jamrah al-Aqabah
   II. Every day on the days of Tashreeq after the high noon, one throws seven pebbles at each of the three places of throwing the pebbles, starting with the first, then middle and then Al-Aqabah

5) Preforming the farewell Tawaf (Circumambulation)[5]

6) Shaving off or cutting one's hair[6]

[4] Meeqaat: are the stations at which pilgrims on the Hajj put on ihram
[5] Recorded in Bukhari and Muslim
[6] Surah Fath: 27/ Ijma (Consensus) of the scholars

The Description of Hajj

If you are performing **Hajj al-Ifraad** or **Hajj al-Qiraan**, you should enter into Ihraam at the station of Ihraam (i.e. the Meeqaat) that lies on your way to Makkah.

If you are performing **Hajj at-Tamattu'**, you should make Ihraam for 'Umrah from the Meeqaat through which you come to Makkah, then you should make the Ihraam for Hajj from your residence in Makkah on the Day of Tarwiyah, which is the 8th of Dhul-Hijjah. Perform Ghusl[7], perfume yourself, if possible, and put on the two garments of Ihraam. After putting on Ihraam, make your Niyyah (intention) by saying:

«لَبَّيْكَ حَجًّا»

"Labbayka Hajjan."

"I answer your call with Hajj."

«لَبَّيْكَ أَللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ، لَبَّيْكَ لاَ شَرِيْكَ لَكَ لَبَّيْكَ ، إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ وَالنِّعْمَةَ لَكَ وَالْمُلْكَ، لاَ شَرِيْكَ لَكَ.»

"Labbayk Allahumma labbayk. Labbayk la shareeka laka labbayk. Innal hamda wan ni'mata laka wal mulk. La shareeka lak."

"Here I am at Your service O Lord, here I am. Here I am. There is no partner to You. Here I am. Truly, all praise and favour is Yours, as well as all dominion. There is no partner to You."[8]

[7] A complete bath of purification

[8] Recorded in Bukhari

A Day by Day Description of Hajj

8th of Dhul-Hijjah

Then you should go to Mina, where you pray the Dhuhr, ‘Asr, Maghrib, ‘Isha and Fajr prayers at their specific times, shortening those prayers which are four rak‘ahs to two, but without combining them.

9th of Dhul-Hijjah

When the sun rises on the 9th of Dhul-Hijjah, proceed toward ‘Arafat

When the sun rises on the 9th of Dhul-Hijjah, proceed towards ‘Arafat in a calm manner and without harming your fellow pilgrims. At ‘Arafat, pray the Dhuhr and ‘Asr prayers, shortening them as well as combining them during the time of Dhuhr, with one athaan and two Iqaamahs (one Iqaamah for each prayer).

Throughout the time in Arafat one should recite the praise of Allah and offer supplications to Him facing the Qiblah with your hands raised, following the practice of the Prophet Muhammad صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. Then remain at ‘Arafat until after sunset.

When the sun has set, proceed toward Muzdalifah

When the sun has set, proceed toward Muzdalifah in a peaceful and dignified manner, reciting the Talbiyah. Do not harm or cause any discomfort to your fellow Muslims. When you arrive at Muzdalifah, pray the Maghrib and ‘Isha prayers combined, shortening the ‘Isha prayer to two rak‘ahs. Stay at Muzdalifah until you have prayed the Fajr prayer, and remain there until the brightness of the morning becomes apparent. Mention Allah and supplicate to Him much after the Fajr prayer while facing the Qiblah and raising your hands, following the practice of Prophet Muhammad صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

10th of Dhul-Hijjah

Then proceed back to Mina before sunrise

Then proceed to Mina before sunrise and continue saying the Talbiyah while going. If the pilgrim is among the people with an excuse, such as women or weak individuals, it is permissible for them to proceed to Mina at any time after midnight. In Muzdalifah, pick up only seven pebbles to throw at the stone pillar (Jamrah) of 'Aqabah. The remaining pebbles can be picked up at Mina. There is no harm even if the seven pebbles to be thrown at the stone pillar of 'Aqabah are also picked up at Mina.

When you arrive at Mina do the following:

1) **Throw the seven pebbles at the stone pillar of 'Aqabah (this is the one nearest to Makkah):** Throw the pebbles one after the other, saying: **Allahu Akbar** with each throw.[9]
2) **If you are required to sacrifice an animal, slaughter your sacrificial animal:** You may eat some of the meat and distribute the rest to the needy.
3) **Shave your head or cut some of your hair**: Shaving is preferable for men, while for women the length of a fingertip of their hair is to be cut.

The above-mentioned order of doing things is preferred; however, there is no harm if some of them are done before others.

After you have thrown the pebbles and shaved or cut some of your hair, the prohibitions of Ihraam are lifted, except the prohibition of having sexual intercourse with one's spouse. This is the first tahallul (the act of leaving the state of Ihraam and returning to one's normal state). You may now wear your usual clothes.

[9] Recorded in Sahih Bukhari

You should then proceed to Makkah and perform the Tawaaf al-Ifaadah (the Tawaaf which is one of the essential rites of the Hajj)

If you are doing Hajj at-Tamattu', you should also perform the Sa'i.

After this, all the prohibitions of Ihraam are lifted, including having sexual relations with your spouse. It is permissible to delay the Tawaaf al-Ifaadah and Sa'i until after the days spent at Mina are over.

After performing your Tawaaf al-Ifaadah and Sa'i on the day of Sacrifice, return to Mina and spend the nights of the 11th, 12th and the 13th days of Dhul-Hijjah (the three days following the day of Sacrifice which are known as the Days of Tashreeq). There is no harm if you hasten and leave on the 12th day of Dhul-Hijjah.

11th, 12th and the 13th days of Dhul-Hijjah[10]

After the zawaal (midday) in the afternoon of each of the two days (11TH and 12TH) or third day (13th of Dhul-Hijjah) of your stay in Mina, stone each of the three pillars (Jamaraat) starting with the first pillar (that is the one that is farthest from Makkah), followed by the middle pillar, and lastly the pillar of 'Aqabah. Throw seven pebbles, one after the other, at each of these pillars saying: **"Allahu Akbar"** with each throw.[11]

[10] The three days following the day of Sacrifice which are known as the Days of Tashreeq

[11] Recorded in Bukhari

If you stay in Mina for only two days, you must leave Mina before the sun sets on the second day (before the 13th of Dhul-Hijjah starts)

If the sun should set before you are able to depart from Mina, then you would have to remain in Mina for the third night and throw the pebbles again the next day. In any event, it is preferable to remain in Mina for three nights.

It is permissible for the sick and the weak to assign someone to throw the pebbles for them. The substitute first throws his own pebbles, and then, while at the same pillar, throws the pebbles of the person that assigned him.

When you decide to return to your country or home after completing the rites of Hajj, you must perform the farewell Tawaaf (Tawaaf al-Wadaa') before leaving Makkah. None are excused from this except women who are experiencing their menstrual cycle or postpartum bleeding.

End of Hajj

Chapter of Umrah

The Pillars of Umrah

1) Entering into the state of Ihram with the intention of Umrah.[12] By saying,

«لَبَّيْكَ عُمْرَةً»

"Labbayka 'Umrah."

"I answer your call with 'Umrah"

2) Tawaf around the Ka'bah (7 rounds)
3) As-Sa'ee (7 Circuits) between Safa and Marwah[13]

The Obligatory Acts of Umrah

1) Cutting or trimming one's hair[14]
2) It is obligatory upon the one who intends to perform the Umrah to enter the state of Ihram from one of the Meeqaats (Prescribed stations).

[12] Recorded in Bukhari and Muslim
[13] Surah Baqarah: 158/ Recorded in Ahmad and Hakim. Albani graded it Sahih
[14] Recorded in Bukhari and Muslim

The Description of Umrah

1) One must go the prescribed station (Meeqaat)

When you reach the prescribed station (Meeqaat), the Sunnah is that you clean yourself, wash the whole of your body, and apply some perfume to your body but not your garments of Ihraam. Males should then put on the two-piece garment of Ihraam[15] which should preferably be of white cloth. As for a woman, she may wear any clothes she likes as long as they do not display her adornments, nor make her resemble men, or resemble the clothes of unbelieving women. Then make your intention to perform 'Umrah by saying:

«لَبَّيْكَ عُمْرَةً»

"Labbayka 'Umrah."

"I answer your call with 'Umrah"

And then say the Talbiyah:

«لَبَّيْكَ أَللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ، لَبَّيْكَ لاَ شَرِيْكَ لَكَ لَبَّيْكَ ، إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ وَالنِّعْمَةَ لَكَ وَالْمُلْكَ، لاَ شَرِيْكَ لَكَ.»

"Labbayk Allahumma labbayk. Labbayk la shareeka laka labbayk. Innal hamda wan ni'mata laka wal mulk. La shareeka lak."

"Here I am at Your service O Lord, here I am. Here I am. There is no partner to You. Here I am. Truly, all praise and favor is Yours, as well as all Dominion. There is no partner to You."[16]

[15] The garments of Ihraam constitute an izaar, which is a cloth wrapped around the lower part of the body, and a ridaa', a cloth which is wrapped around the upper part of the body.

[16] **Recorded in Sahih Bukhari**

Men should utter this aloud, while women should say it quietly. Repeat this Talbiyah frequently, and engage in the praise of Allah and in supplications for forgiveness.

2) Make the seven circuits (Tawaaf) around the Ka'bah

When you reach Makkah, make the seven circuits (Tawaaf) around the Ka'bah, beginning at the Black Stone with Takbeer (utterance of **Allahu Akbar**)[17], and ending each circuit at the same place. While making your Tawaaf, it is Sunnah for a man to expose his right shoulder, that is, to put the middle of the upper garment of his Ihram underneath his right arm and their two ends on his left shoulder and it is also Sunnah for him to walk in quick and short paces during the first three circuits of this Tawaaf.

You should invoke Allah much and make supplications to Him in any words you please as long as they are acceptable in the Sharia. It is Sunnah when you reach the place between the Yamani Corner and the Black Stone in each circuit to say:

﴿رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ﴾

"Rabanaa aatinaa fid-dunyaa hasanatah, wa fil-Aakhirati hasanah, wa qinaa 'athaab an-Naar."

"Our Lord give us good in this world, and good in the Hereafter, and save us from the torment of the Fire."

[Surah al-Baqarah (2):201][18]

[17]Recorded in Sahih Bukhari

[18]Recorded in Abu Dawud

Pray two rakats behind the Station of Ibraheem (Maqâm Ibraheem)

After completing the seventh circuit, pray two rak'ahs behind the Station of Ibraheem (Maqaam Ibraheem) if it is possible, even if you are a little far away from it. Otherwise pray at any other place within the Sacred Masjid.

3) Performing Sa'ee (7 Circuits between As-Safa and Al-Marwah)

You should then proceed to the mount of Safa. Then you should face the Ka'bah, praise Allah, raising your hand in the way done when making Du'a, and then say the Takbir (Allahu Akbar) three times. Then make supplication to Allah, repeating your supplication three times, as is the Sunnah.

Then you go from mount Safa and do the Sa'i (Circuits between Safa and Marwah) of the 'Umrah seven times. You should increase your speed between the two green lights, but otherwise walk at a normal pace before and after them. Then precede to Marwah, praise Allah, and do as you did at Safa.

4) Shaving or shortening your hair

After the Sa'i, end your 'Umrah by shaving or shortening your hair. After this, the prohibitions pertaining to the state of Ihraam are lifted, and you may now resume your normal activities. If you are doing Hajj al-Tamattu', then it is preferable to shorten your hair, so that you leave the shaving of the hair for the act of going out of the rites of Hajj.

End of Umrah

Chapter of Visiting the Prophets Masjid (in Madinah)

Etiquettes of visiting the Masjid of the Prophet

صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

The following are some etiquettes of visiting the Masjid of the Prophet (Sallallahu alayhi was sallam) in Madinah:

1) When the person enters the Masjid, he should enter with his right foot and say,

أَعُوذُ بِاللهِ العَظِيمِ, وَوَجْهِهِ الْكَرِيمِ, وَسُلْطَانِهِ الْقَدِيمِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ.

I seek refuge in Allah, the Almighty, in His Noble Face, and His Eternal Power from the accursed Satan.[19]

2) The he should pray a two rakah prayer of "Greeting the Masjid (Tahiyatul Masjid)" before he sits.[20]
3) He must be careful to avoid facing the direction of the Noble grave while praying or facing it while making Dua (Supplicating)
4) The he goes to the Noble grave to convoy the salutations to the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. He must avoid putting his head on his chest, bowing his head or doing any act of humility that Allah alone deserves. He must avoid seeking help in the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ as well.[21]

[19] Recorded in Abu Dawud, albani graded it Sahih
[20] Recorded in Bukhari and Muslim
[21] Many of the above rulings and points was taken from the book by Shaykh Muhammad bin Saalih al-Uthaymeen